

Applicants : Tan et al.
USSN : 10/578,762
Filed : 12-19-2006
Examiner : Heidi M. Bashaw
Page : 2

Atty. Dkt. No. : 1189-PCT-US
Art Unit : 4138
Date of office action: 10-30-2007
Date of response: 1-30-2008

Claim Amendment Fee Calculation

	Claims remaining after amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid	Present Extra	Rate (SMALL Entity)	Additional Fee
Total	10	Minus	20	0	X \$25.00	\$0.00
Ind.	2	Minus	4	0	X \$100.00	\$0.00

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings including replacement sheets begin on page 9 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 20 of this paper.

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Amendments To The Specification

Please replace lines 9-29 on page 5 with the following:

The present invention provides, in one aspect, an orthodontic appliance comprising a base portion adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth, a body portion extending from the base portion and having an archwire receiving means and a first narrowing forming a neck portion with the base portion and provided substantially rear of the archwire receiving means. The archwire receiving means has a slot substantially adapted to receive a portion of the archwire and having an opening comprising a narrowing portion which is narrower than the slot.

In a preferred embodiment, the second narrowing portion is provided along a length and/or opening of the archwire receiving means. Preferably, the second narrowing is provided at at least one point along a length and/or opening of the archwire receiving means. The second narrowing portion may preferably be at least one protrusion or rib.

The present invention also provides, in another aspect, a kinematic inversion of the aspect above, in which the orthodontic appliance comprises a base portion adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth, a body portion extending from the base portion and having an archwire receiving means and a first narrowing forming a neck portion with the base portion and provided substantially rear of the archwire receiving means, the archwire receiving means having a slot substantially adapted to receive a portion of the archwire and having an opening comprising an enlarged portion which is broader than the slot. Preferably, the enlarged portion is provided along a length

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and/or opening (9) of the archwire receiving means, or provided as one or more points along a length and/or breadth of the archwire receiving means. The enlarged portion may be provided as a protrusion or rib.

In another aspect of the invention, a method is provided for straightening teeth with an orthodontic appliance as aforescribed, including an orthodontic bracket, comprising the steps of bonding a base portion of the appliance to a surface of a tooth, coupling an archwire to said orthodontic appliance, including placing the archwire proximate an archwire receiving means, and moving the archwire into contact with either a narrowing portion of the archwire receiving means or an enlarged portion of the receiving means; and pushing said archwire substantially past said narrowing portion or enlarged portion.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on line 15, page 6 as follows:

In the present invention, the 'narrowing' being an opening in the archwire receiving means referred to may be rendered a number of ways or in combination with a lobe, projection, knob, ledge, ridge, boss, extension, flange, hump, lump, lip, nib, protrusion, ramp, rib, skirt, tongue, wedge or the like.

In the present invention, the 'narrowing' connection being a portion connecting the base to the archwire receiving means may be rendered in any suitable manner so as to provide some flex in the operation of the archwire receiving means.

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Please amend the paragraph that begins on line 19, page 6 as follows:

The present invention should not be limited to only the embodiment disclosed. For example, as is contemplated in the present invention, the 'narrowing' opening may be formed in the archwire, and / or be a kinematic inversion of the embodiment disclosed herein for illustrative purposes only. Likewise, the 'narrowing' connection may be formed by a combination of features of the appliance and the archwire receiving means.